MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Gas and Coal Based sponge iron plants

*107. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gas-based and coal-based sponge iron plants which are in operation in the country at present;

(b) the name of the multi-nationals supplying technology to these plants;

(c) whether Government propose to permit more sponge iron plants, if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to set up a sponge iron plant in Tamil Nadu using magnetic iron ore; and

(e) whether it is a fact that multi-nationals from United States and Germany have offered technology to put up sponge iron plants and whether Government have evaluated their performance in this field and if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEB): (a) At present there are 5 coal-based and one gas-based sponge iron plants in operation in the country.

(b) The coal-based plants are based on the technology supplied by M/s. Lurgi GmbH, Germany, Allis Chalmers Corporation, USA and Mannesmann Demag, Germany (formerly M/s. Krupp). The gas-based plant is based on the technology supplied by M/s. Midrex International, Netherland.

(c) The sponge iron industry has been delicensed subject to certain locational restrictions and many entrepreneurs have restrictions and many entrepreneurs have plants in the country.

(d) Government is not considering any proposal at present for establishment of a sponge iron plant in Tamil Nadu using Magnetic iron ore.

(e) Sponge iron plants (both coal-based and gas-based) have been implemented with technology supplied by multi-national companies including those in the United States and Germany Some more plants based on such technologies are under implementation. Applications of Indian companies seeking foreign technical collaboration are examined on case-to-case basis and approval issued depending upon the need for foreign technology, suitability of the technology proposed and the terms and conditions transfer.

Expert review implementation of the Sardar Sarover Project

@*108. SHRI P. UPENDRA:
MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has started an independent expert review of the implementation of the Sardar Sarover Project following protests by Indian environmentalists;

(b) if so, what is the progress in this regard and whether work on the project has been suspended due to this review;

(c) whether the World Bank has further decided to extend the credit rating of the projects by one year; and

(d) if so, what is, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir, an independent review of the implementation of the Sardar Sarovar Project has been initiated by the World Bank.

(b) The work on the Project is proceeding as per schedule. The work of review has not yet commenced.

@Previously Starred Question 48 transferred from 16th July, 1991.

(c) and (d) On the request of the Government of India, the World Bank has extended the credit closing date of the Sardar Sarover Water Delivery and Drainage Project by one year i.e. upto July 1, 1992.

Closure of News-Papers

*109. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of newspapers, including the Amrita Bazar Patrika group (Calcutta), the Indian Express (Hyderabad) and the Times of India (Lucknow) are lying closed; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to reopen them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Closure of several newspapers and steps taken to reopen them

The appropriate Government under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 for newspaper establishments is the State Government.

2. According to the information received from the Government of West Bengal, the Amrita Bazar Patrika Group stopped publication with effect from February 6, 1991 owing to acute financial stringency, and not on account of any industrial relations problem.

3. The Government of Andhra Pradesh have informed that the workers of the Indian Express in Andhra Pradesh struck work with effect from 25.4.1991 on the question of implementation of the Bachawat Award. The management resorted to lock out of their units at Hyderabad and Vizianagaram from 18.5.1991. Efforts at conciliation having failed, the State Government on 4.7.1991 referred to dispute for adjudication and prohibited continuance of the strike and lock out. The newspaper has since resumed publication.

4. The Government of Uttar Pradesh have informed that following a strike by the workmen of the Times of India, Lucknow, with effect from March 20, 1991 on a demand for 20 per cent bonus, the management declared lock out of the establishment on May 7, 1991. The State Government have referred the dispute relating to the question of bonus for adjudication and are continuing their efforts at conciliation of an industrial dispute arising out of disciplinary action taken against some workers by the management.

श्री राजीव गांधी के लिये स्मारक

*110. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : क्या शहरी विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार श्री पेरुम्बुदूर में, जहां भारत के भूतपूर्व प्रधान मंत्री, श्री राजीव गांधी की हत्या की गई थी, एक स्मारक बनाने पर विचार कर रही है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

शहरी विकास मंत्री (श्रीमती शीला कौल): (क) और (ख) श्री पेरुम्बुदूर में, जहां भूतपूर्व प्रधान मंत्री, श्री राजीव गांधी की हत्या की गई थी, एक स्मारक बनाने का भारत सरकार का कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है । तथापि, तमिलनाडु सरकार ने उक्त स्थल पर एक स्मारक बनाने का निर्णय लिया है जिसके लिए उन्होंने पहले ही से भूमि अधिग्रहीत कर ली है।

चीनी मिलों की ओर किसानों की बकाया राशि

*111. डा० जिनेन्द्र कुमार जैन :
सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा :

क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 18 मार्च, 1991 के "फाइनेंशियल एक्सप्रेस"